THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) No import of machinery has been made by Western Coalfields Ltd. during the last two years.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Coal survey in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradeshh

4281. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) what are the potential sites of coal deposits in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh for which survey have been made but mining has not yet begun ;

(b) what are the total estimated deposits in these sites;

(c) by when would mining begin on these sites; and

(d) which are sites which would be offered for private sector mining ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) According to information available from Coal India Limited (CIL), there are 37 coal prospects in Maharashtra Coalfields where exploration has been completed and mining has not yet started. Coal reserves estimated in these prospects are of the order of 1567.84 million tonnes. Mining activity in some of these areas can be started after establishing technical feasibility and economic viability of the coal blocks depending on availability of financial resources and environmental and other clearances.

In case of coalfields of Andhra Pradesh as per available information, Geological Survey of India (GSI) is at present conducting regional exploration in parts of Kothagudem, Anisettipalli, Puau-kulachilaka Pasra and Khammampalli sectors. Areas like Mulug, Koyagudem, Kothagudem and Punukulachilaka indicate encouring results for coal potentiality. Exact details of reserves in these areas have not so far been established.

(d) Lohara West, Baranj I to IV, Bander and Lohara East in Maharashtra Coalfields have been offered for development as captive source of supply of coal to a private sector company.

As of now no coal block has been identified in coalfields in Andhra Pradesh for captive mining by private sector companies.

Production and selling price of coal in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh

4282. SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) what is the per unit cost of production of coal and its selling price as on 1st April, 1994 in the various coal mines in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh;

(b) how does it compare with the cost of production of coal in Madhya Pradesh and Bihar coal mines;

(c) how does it compare with the cost of production of coal produced in major coal producing countries abroad; and

(d) what is being done to reduce the cost of production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) According to information furnished by coal companies the details of average unit cost of production and average selling price of coal as on 1st April, 1994 for various coal mines in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar were as under :—

State	Average cost of production (Rupees per tonne-Quick Estimates without adjustment)	Average selling price (Rupees per tonne)
Maharashtra .	361.46	424.05
Andhra Pradesh .	484.80	489.29
Madhya Pradesh.	309.72	372.06
Bihar. . .	453.16	405.08

As may be seen from above data, cost of coal production is highest in Andhra Pradesh and lowest in Madhya Pradesh.